

Franklin County Solid Waste 5 Year Plan

APRIL 2015 - 2020

Mission Statement:

Franklin County Solid Waste provides household waste disposal and a recycling diversion program for the county and its residents in order to meet or exceed the rules and mandates of the State of Tennessee toward waste diversion and disposal.

Explanation of Current Operations:

In 1995 Franklin County closed its landfill operated at the intersection of Hwy 16 and Hwy 64 also known locally as the Yarborough property. At that time Franklin County became a founding partner of Inter-local Solid Waste Authority. The "Authority" is made up of Lincoln County, Moore County, Bedford County, Franklin County, and the City of Tullahoma. In 2015 Giles County who was a founding member broke away from the "Authority" when their Tipping Fees (fee to dispose of waste into the landfill including transportation) were renegotiated by the Authority at \$65.27 per ton. This was up from roughly \$32.31 per ton for the previous rate during the period of 2005-2015. Franklin County's new rate was renegotiated from \$32.31 per ton to \$48.12 with Santek out of Bradley County procuring the bid. The "Authority" upon resolution of the remaining counties, entered into a purchase agreement on April 1st 2015 with Allied (aka: BFI, Republic) for the purchase of the Franklin and Lincoln County Transfer Stations at a combined cost of \$700,000. Franklin County's drop off point for most all waste including household waste and construction and demolition debris is carried to Estill Springs and deposited at the Inter-local transfer station. Tullahoma also uses this transfer station for all their city waste. Franklin County currently pays the bill for waste disposal for the cities of: Estill Springs, Cowan, Decherd, and Huntland. The County is also in a partnership with the City of Winchester to handle all of their bulk waste (i.e. mattresses, couches, recliners, desks, etc.) for \$10,000 per year and receipt of the cities blue bag recycling efforts twice a month. Winchester and Sewanee (University of the South) handle most of their own household waste for their city patrons.

My current budget for 2014 -2015 FY is 1,485,794. My estimated revenue mostly from property taxes is 1,379,214 for FY 15. As you can see I already had a shortfall in estimated revenue to overcome before the year even started. I predict the 2015-16 expenditures to be approximately \$1,726,000. This will include the cost of waste disposal increase from \$32.31/ton to \$48.12/ton. **In Five years I estimate my total budget to be at around \$2,000,000 with \$720,000 going strictly to pay for the disposal of waste; if we maintain our current course.**

The Plan Forward:

Several alternatives need to be implemented in the future: **recycling efforts increased**, partnerships with other agencies, businesses, industries, and increased participation by our residents in recycling program. Efforts need to be made toward composting by our residents through a sponsored program. An alternative method of disposing of garbage other than "land-filling" needs to be implemented.

Franklin County Solid Waste with the help of the ISWA Regional Education officer has partnered with The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in order to share resources and information with new industries in our industrial parks. This initiative will most definitely continue. With an immediate increase in recycling containers our organization will be able to supply Industries with an outlet to reduce their waste and recycle during the process. One example of this relationship that is working well is our cardboard containers. We provide the industries with a free cardboard container thereby reducing their paid for waste. Franklin County profits from the sale of the recycled material.

In the same manner as with the industries, with-in the next five years we plan to have a paper container at all the schools located in the County. Schools generate a massive amount of waste paper that is currently being landfilled. By increasing our partnership with the schools this paper will be recycled saving the county thousands of dollars in tipping fees. Each container costs roughly 1,000.00. Likewise, it is our intent to have most every business in the county participate with newspaper, junk-mail / office paper recycling with-in the next five years. Zero office and newspaper being land-filled is our goal.

Through a continuing partnership with Tims-Ford State Park, we plan to continue and expand our recycling program. Earlier this year I was approached by Rangers from the park with an idea to include our three-fold recycling containers in each of their rented cabins located inside the park. If this initiative is successful, we will provide a roll-off recycle container to the park and service it at no charge in exchange for their recycling efforts. The park is also interested in composting and in receiving mulch from our Joyce Lane facility. I have approached them with the idea of posting trash receptacles at all of their state ran boat docks. In this initiative the Rangers will patrol and help insure that no unacceptable waste (hazardous or construction / demo, tires) is collected. Franklin County will be responsible for emptying the dumpster on a weekly or bi-monthly basis with the intent being: to reduce the amount of waste that is illegally deposited in our lake. This effort is to reduce the likelihood of our lake being poisoned with Leachate (waste mixed with water) causing an environmental issue. Franklin County Solid Waste recognizes that our lake is a huge draw toward citizens relocating and visiting our area. This initiative will start this Spring with efforts increasing with time.

Currently the cities of Winchester, Cowan, Sewanee and Estill Springs participate in a blue-bag recycling program. Decherd has been approached and is currently debating on the issue of starting a blue-bag recycling program. Huntland is currently being solicited to have a representative from Solid Waste come present the program. The town of Huntland monthly with half the residents of the City of Cowan produces almost the same amount of waste tonnage. This is costing the city transportation costs as well as the county a massive amount of tipping fees. The City of Huntland on average produces 55 tons of waste a month while the City of Cowan averages 77 tons a month. Both Decherd and Huntland will be highly solicited to increase their amount of recycling efforts and decrease the amount of waste they are producing. With-in five years I would certainly expect that Huntland and Decherd's blue-bag program is well defined, under-way, and contributing large amounts of recycling material.

Five Years from Now:

I am looking into and studying the idea of waste-to-energy. Mayor Stewart and I along with Solid Waste board member(s) will soon be embarking on a meet-and-greet with the representatives from the City of Lebanon. Lebanon is currently in the process of building a 3-5 million dollar incinerator. This incinerator produces steam which will power a generator. Lebanon plans to sell the energy back to the power company thereby reducing the demand for power in the area which in turn filters to the tax-payers in

savings. The City of Lebanon currently produces about half of the volume of trash that Franklin County produces annually. The 3-5 million dollar facility at max production will consume about 45 tons of garbage a day. Franklin County currently averages about 50 tons a day and with growth in mind, we would want to be able to handle roughly 100 tons a day making our way into the future. I would estimate this facility costing roughly 10 million dollars to start-up. If one looks at the cost of garbage disposal in five years, then we are talking about 725,000 dollars per year for the County with land-fill disposal. At that time rates will be renegotiated again through Inter-local Solid Waste Authority and could easily be re-negotiated to cost 1 million dollars a year for disposal of waste. In essence, Mayor Stewart and I think it is imperative that we find an alternative to waste disposal and waste-to-energy currently looks like our most viable option. In ten years or less the plant would pay for itself in the savings from the cost of tipping fees. Waste disposal is also a key expenditure by our small-business owners and industries in the County. With a 100 ton a day capacity, the incinerator could easily handle some business and industry waste in addition to the County's. The City of Winchester should also be able to dispose of their waste in the facility, as well; instead of paying the cost to transport to Lewisburg. The Incinerators are also designed to accept whole tires which would save the county and its taxpayers roughly 60,000 dollars per year. The County also currently contracts for mulch and wood waste disposal at a cost of \$25,000 annually. This could be an additional \$85,000 in revenue saved each year with the use of an incinerator. I have spoken with TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and they recommend their waste reduction goal being met by each of its counties: 1st the 3 R(s) Reduce, Re-use, Recycle; 2nd waste-to-energy; and lastly land-fill. Land-filling is an antiquated system of trash disposal which can be witnessed by the fact that ten years ago the state had 110 land-fills in operation with 90% being owned by Counties and municipalities. Now the state has only 30 active land-fills in operation with most reaching or nearing capacity with-in the next five years. Only 10% of land-fills are still operated by County or Municipal organizations in TN. Land-fills are fast becoming extinct and as they do the price to use them will only increase substantially.

Equipment needed now thru 5 years:

- 1) New Recycling Bailer : Obtaining bids now but costs are expected to be between \$50-100 thousand dollars (**life expectancy of current bailer = two years**)
- 2) New Roll-off truck expected expenditure \$150,000: (**life expectancy of 2008 model truck is one year**)
- 3) New packers for Joyce Lane and 15 Convenience centers needed to replace systems that are 25 years old and in bad need of repair cost is roughly 5,000 / apiece (**plan is to replace two a year until all are upgraded 5000 X 15 = \$75,000**)
- 4) Recycling tri-compartment containers need at least two for a **total price of \$10,000.**
- 5) Roll-off containers with a total price of 5,000 dollars / piece need two 40 yard containers and two 30 yard containers for **total price of \$20,000**
- 6) Need a maintenance bay to service trucks and equipment \$20,000
- 7) Incinerator / steam generator = \$10 million dollars initial investment

****Most of these items to including the incinerator and generator can be purchased at least partly with grant funds from the State and Federal Government*

William Anderson

Director FCSW